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OW.
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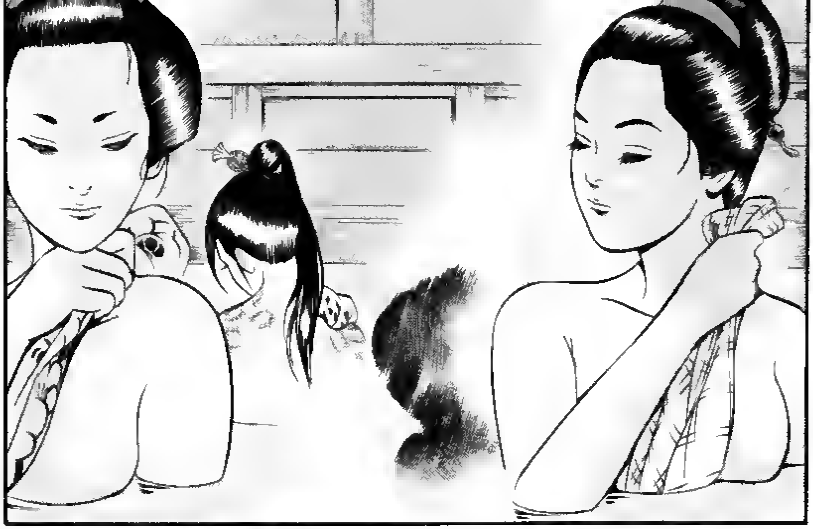
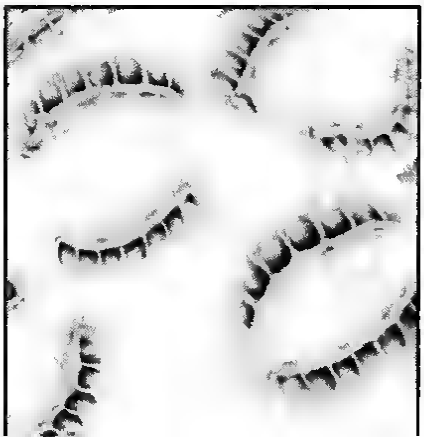
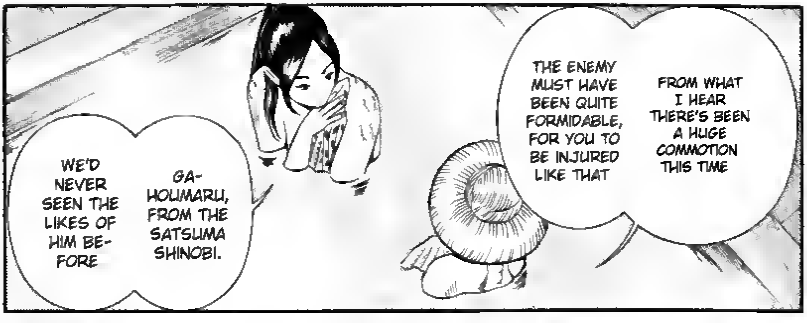
.....
.....

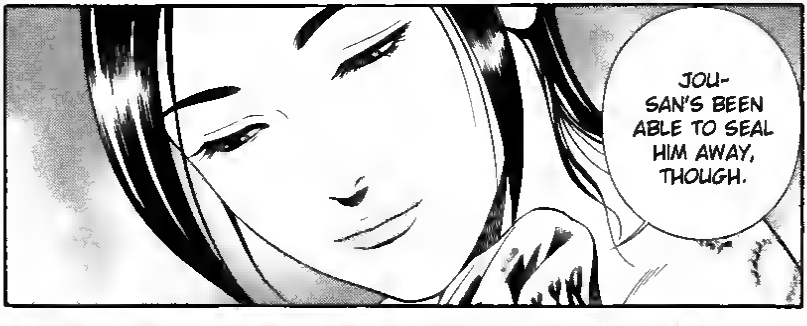
第30話◎吉兆の盗賊❶
左楽
入荷

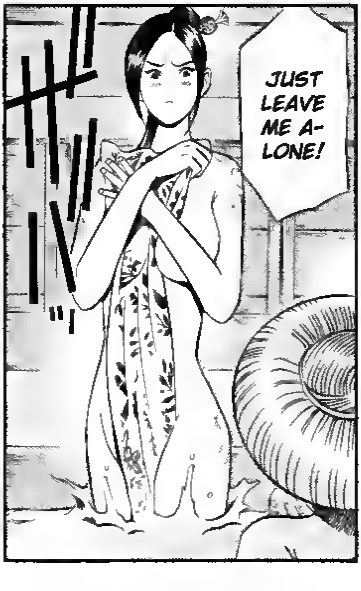


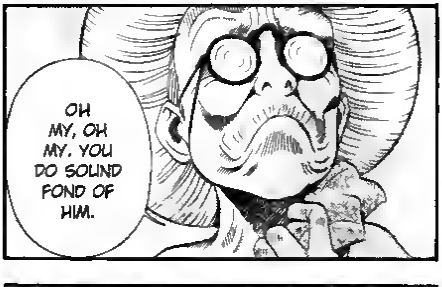


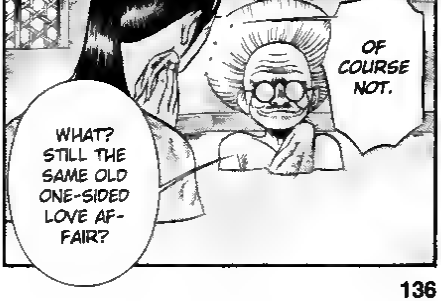
NOT GOOD.
EVEN IF I ASCRIBE THE WOUNDS TO EROTIC GAMES,
THERE IS STILL SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THEM.
!
OROKU-SAN.


FROM WHAT I HEAR THERE'S BEEN A HUGE COMMOTION THIS TIME
THE ENEMY MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE FORMIDABLE, FOR YOU TO BE INJURED LIKE THAT
GA-HOUMARU, FROM THE SATSUMA SHINOBI.
WE'D NEVER SEEN THE LIKES OF HIM BE-FORE


JOU-SAN'S BEEN ABLE TO SEAL HIM AWAY, THOUGH.


JUST LEAVE ME A-LONE!

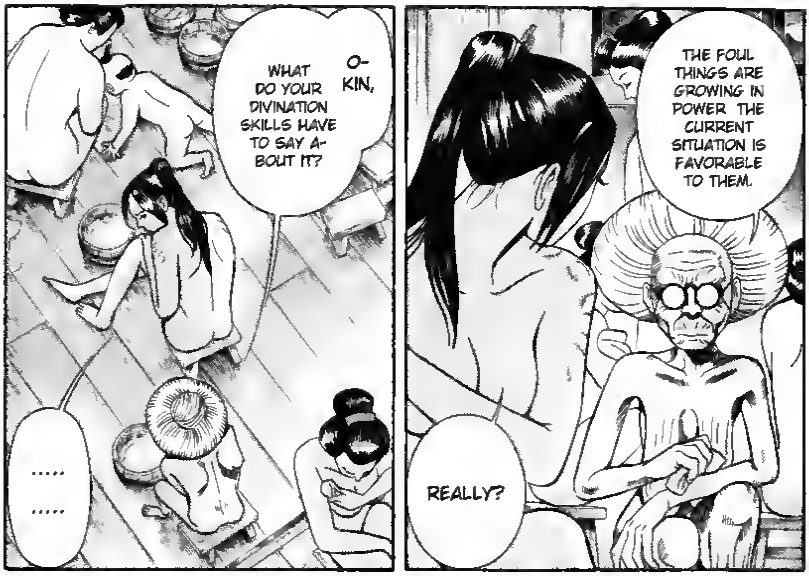

OH MY, OH MY. YOU DO SOUND FOND OF HIM.


OF COURSE NOT.
WHAT? STILL THE SAME OLD ONE-SIDED LOVE AF-FAIR?

I'VE JUST SAID SOMETHING PRETTY GOOD...
OH, MY.
....
....
HUHUHU
JOUNOSUKE IS A MAN OF INTENSE FEELINGS.
HE'S MERELY LOCKING THESE EMOTIONS AWAY.
FOR THESE WOUNDS OF YOURS... IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO LEAVE SCARS, YOU SHOULD GRIND SOME MEDICINAL HERBS INTO A COMPRESS.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR SKIN, THAT YOU MAY NOT REGRET IT WHEN THE CRUCIAL MOMENT COMES.
HUHUHU

TN: THE TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS "MANGORASOU" WHICH IS CLEARLY MEANT TO BE A PLANT OF SORTS BUT I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND OUT WHICH ONE EXACTLY

THAT'S ABOUT THE ONLY DISTRAC-TION I HAVE
I'VE BEEN ALIVE FOR TOO LONG.
クス
BEING ADVANCED IN AGE IS A GOOD THING. YOU CAN JUST SAY WHAT-EVER YOU PLEASE.
ヒャハハ
クスクス
ENJOY YOURSELF NOW WHILE YOU CAN, AND AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.


O-KIN, WHAT DO YOUR DIVINATION SKILLS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT?
.....
.....
THE FOUL THINGS ARE GROWING IN POWER THE CURRENT SITUATION IS FAVORABLE TO THEM.
REALLY?

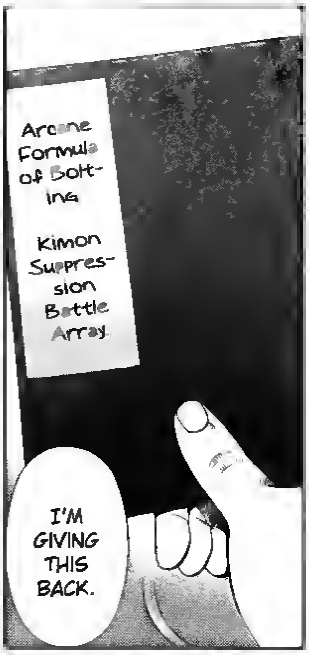
SIGN: TENSHINDOU

SORRY ABOUT THAT, JOUNO-SUKE.
HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING FOR ME?
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T THERE. YOU WERE OUT BATHING?
IT'S NOTHING.
I DON'T SEE YOU SPARKLING CLEAN, FRESH OUT THE BATH ALL THAT OFTEN.

HUMPH.
THERE'S NOTHING AMUSING AT ALL ABOUT CRACKING JOKES WITH A SULLEN FACE LIKE YOURS

書
天神堂
書

A HUGE DEMONIC FACE HAS APPEARED ON THE DOORS OF THE ASAKUSA TEMPLE, YES?
BORROWING THAT OLD BOOK DID YIELD SOME RESULTS, IT SEEMS
IT SAVED MY LIVE.


Arcane Formula of Bolting
Kimon Suppression Battle Array
I'M GIVING THIS BACK.

THAT'D BE ONE OF THE PERKS OF LONGEVITY.
TO THINK I'D GET TO SEE SUCH A LARGE-SCALE TECHNIQUE THESE DAYS.

IT'S DARK, DOWN THERE. BE CAREFUL.

THAT'S THE SHELF FOR ARCANE BOLTING FORMULAS.
PUT IT AT THE END OF THE SECOND ROW.
REMEMBER IT. THIS IS A CRYSTALLISATION OF THE DEMON SEALERS PAST'S WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE.

!
I'D RATHER NOT USE IT TOO MUCH IF I CAN AVOID IT, THOUGH.
OH MY. THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
YOU EVEN TOOK IN THAT PICTURE?
I GUESS I DID.
THE DOORMEN HAVE TO LEAVE A RECORD OF THEIR WORKS BEHIND
THAT'S ANOTHER PART OF OUR JOB

THIS PICTURE DATES BACK TO WHEN O-KIN AND YOURSELF MET FOR THE FIRST TIME.

.....
.....

YEAH.

三年前・江戸——
EDO TWO YEARS PRIOR
GIVE IT BACK .....
?
GOOD
ONE MORE TO GO.

RETURN IT TO ME.
ハキハキ
.....
NO WAY ?!

DON'T BE SILLY!
THERE'S NO WAY I'D STEAL ANYTHING FROM A MONSTER!
IT IS MINE.
ズン
HAND IT OVER!
AAAAAH

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!
FAIL TO COMPLY, AND YOUR LIFE IS FORFEIT.
GIVE IT BACK.

NOT THIS.

GET AWAY !!

THE GIRL MUST HAVE DROPPED THIS.
.....
.....

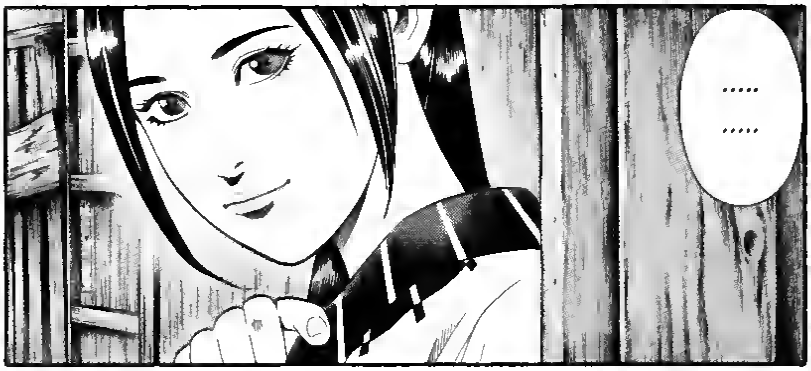
THAT'D BE THE GIRL...
WE HAVE A THIEF!
THIEF!
WHY DID SHE EVEN BOTHER TO TAKE THIS PICTURE?

YAAAAWN
WEATHER
IS NICE
UH?

THERE'S ONE IN MY HOUSE TOO.
THANK YOU!
YEAH
I FOUND ONE IN MINE AS WELL!

KICCHOU KOZOU HAS SHOWED UP!!
THE FORTUNE BOY!
第31話◎吉兆の盗賊2

A MILLION THANKS TO YOU, KICCHOU KOZOU.
THANK YOU. THANK YOU!


.....
.....

A NOBLE, CHIVALROUS THIEF. A REAL RARITY, THESE DAYS!
WRAPPING KOBAN COINS INTO A PAPER WITH A FORTUNE CHARACTER STAMPED ON IT, AND THROWING THEM INTO THE HOUSES OF THE POOR.
THERE WE ARE. THE FORTUNE BOY STRIKES AGAIN!

AFTER HOUSE SAKAI, HE HIT THE ENSHUU'S LUMBER WHOLESALE STORE.
COME ON. ASK FOR YOUR COPY.
IF ONLY KICCHOU KOZOU COULD DROP A KO-BAN BY MY HOUSE AS WELL
I WOULDN'T MIND
LOOK WHO'S TALK-ING.
I'M SURE YOU ALREADY HAVE MONEY SAVED SOME-WHERE.

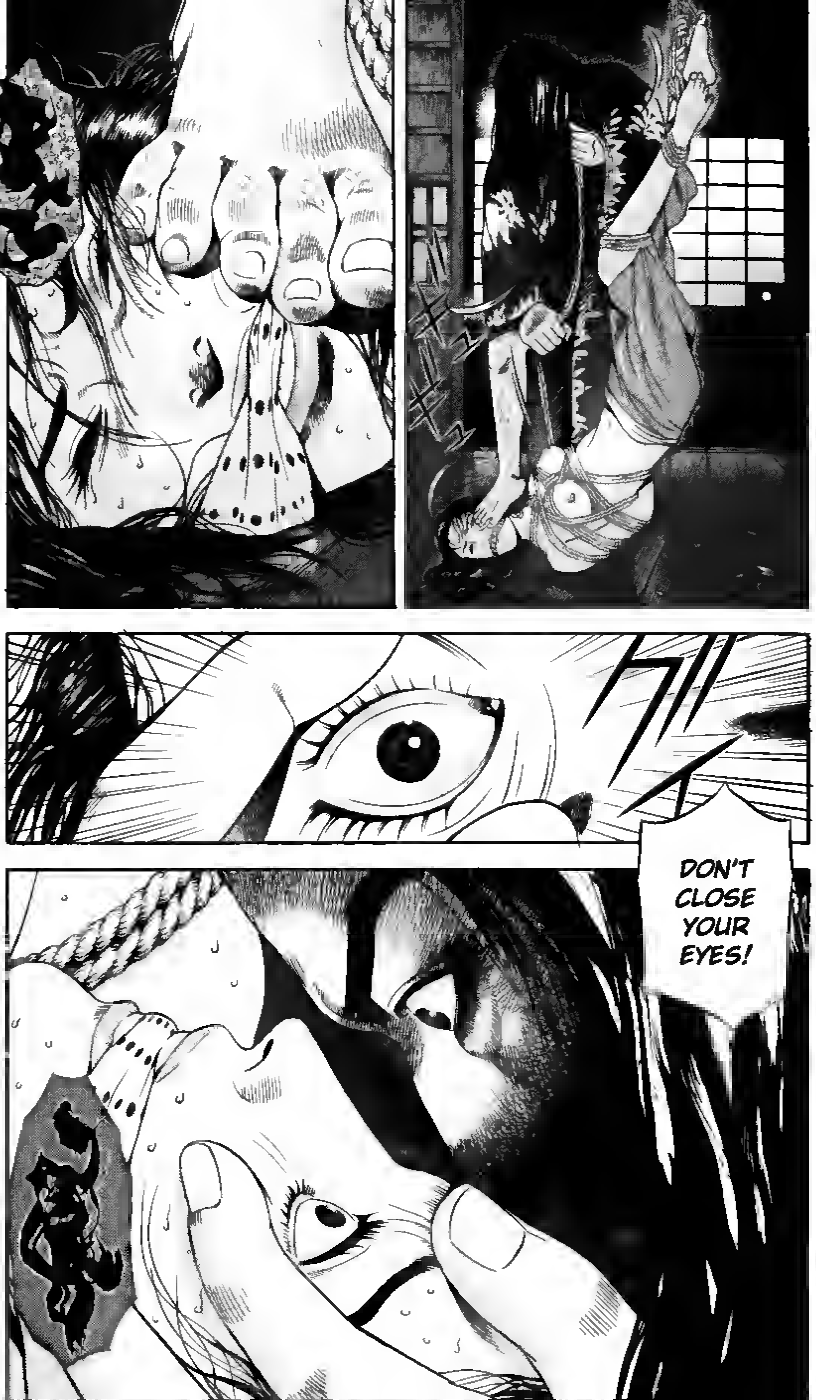
.....
.....

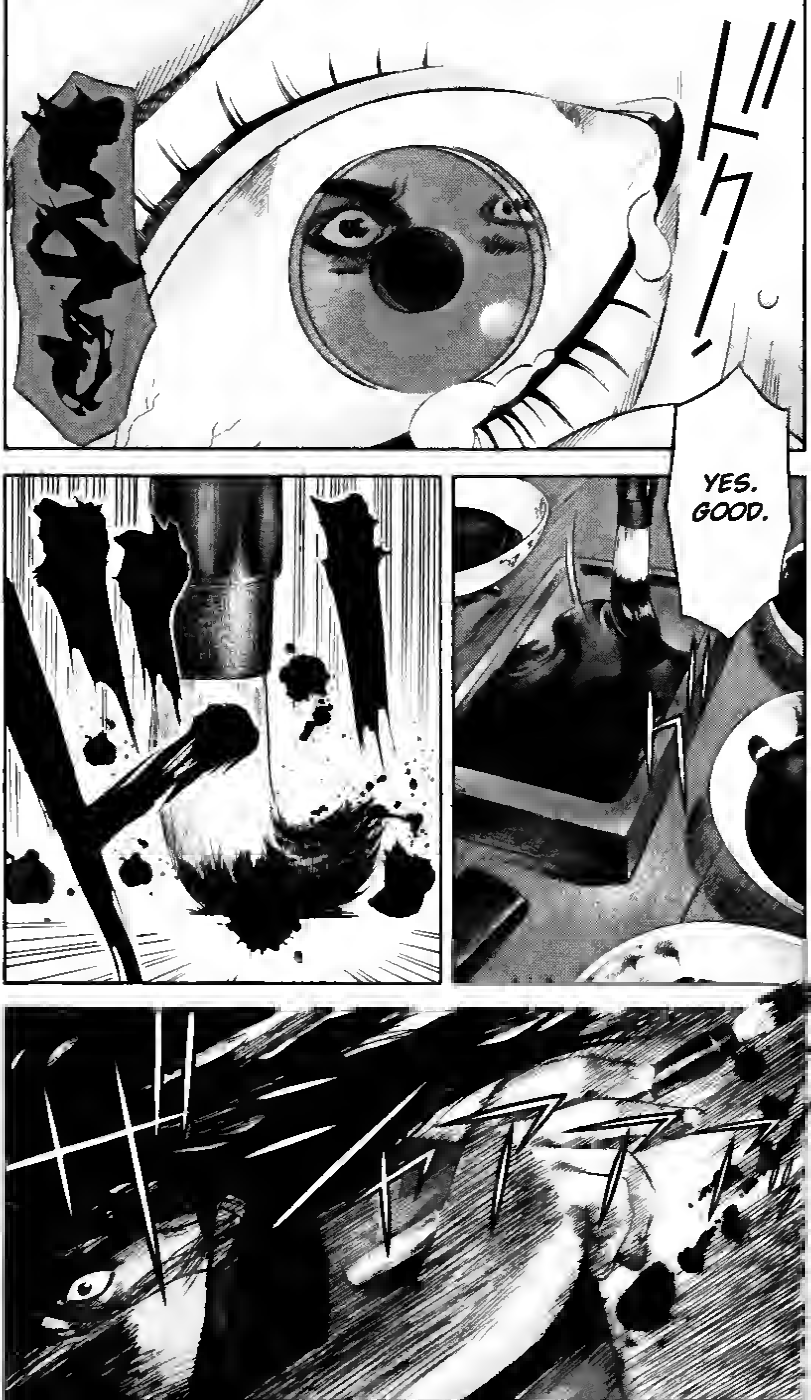
COMING IN.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO SEE, TODAY.
.....
GOSH.
REALLY NOW. ALWAYS THE SAME NOH MASK OF A FACE.
YOU SHOULD TRY WATCHING SOME EROTIC PICTURES EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE CONTENT YOURSELF SOME.

.....
.....
YOU TOOK A RATHER HUGE LEAP PAST THE AVERAGE TITILLATING STUFF.
JOUNOSUKE DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF THIS THINGS'S SIG-NIFICANCE?
SIGNIFI-CANCE?
CERTAINLY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TELL ME WHOEVER MADE THAT PICTURE.
WHERE ON EARTH DID YOU FIND SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, AC-TUALLY.

THIS ISN'T JUST ANY SCENE OF CRUELTY.
THE ARTIST WAS THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED.
THE POINT OF IT IS TO SLAKE THE APPETITES OF DERANGED MEN.
ANY IDEA WHERE I COULD FIND THAT PAINTER?
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING

EVEN IN A TOWN LIKE EDO, IT'S NOT HARD TO COUNT HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD UNDERTAKE THAT KIND OF JOB.


DON'T CLOSE YOUR EYES!


ドクン
YES.
GOOD.

WRONG!
.....
.....
NO.
THAT'S NOT IT.
.....
.....
TRUE DARKNESS ISN'T LIKE THAT!

EX-
CUSE
ME.
DOES
TSUKIOKA-
SENSEI LIVE
HERE?

.....
.....

ARE YOU THE ARTIST, TSUKIOKA FUUSAI-SENSEI?
HO

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT PICTURE AT ALL?
TSU-KIOKA-SENSEI.
.....
.....
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PAINTED IT, AREN'T YOU?
.....IT'S A BORING PICTURE.

SOMEONE ASKED YOU TO PORTRAY THIS WOMAN AS SHE WAS GETTING KILLED.
WHEN DID YOU PAINT IT? WHERE?
I CAN'T REMEM-BER.
WHO WOULD THAT BE?

WHOEVER THEY ARE, I DON'T CARE!
ULTIMATELY, IT'S A BORING PICTURE.
TRUE, GENUINE DARKNESS!!
IT'S BOGUS, EVEN IF IT DOES PORTRAY SOMEBODY'S DEATH!
THAT IS WHAT I WANNA PAINT, YOU HEAR ME!
THIS ISN'T WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.

GRAND-MASTER.
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOU WILL END UP DEVOURED BY IT.
PEOPLE AREN'T MEANT TO TOUCH SUCH A THING.
THE TRUE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD CAN'T BE CONVEYED INTO A PICTURE.
WHAT!

?!
LET ME HAVE A BETTER LOOK..... LET ME LOOK AGAIN
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING TO HAVE THEM GROW SO THICK IN DARKNESS?
.....
.....
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A TENEBROUS LOOK BEFORE.
THE COLOUR OF THE SHADOWS YOU HOLD WITHIN.
YOUR EYES.
YOU HAVE SUCH GREAT EYES.

STAY STILL !!
AL- RIGHT.
DON'T MOVE A MUSCLE !!
HOLD IT.
I'M GONNA PAINT THAT DARKNESS OF YOURS!
PLEASE LET ME KNOW.
WHO ASKED FOR THIS PICTURE ?!

YOU TALK FIRST.
ONCE WE ARE DONE, YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU PLEASE.
LET ME PAINT YOU, FOR STARTERS.
THEN, I'LL TELL YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT TO KNOW.
31st TALE: END

東屋
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……
東屋
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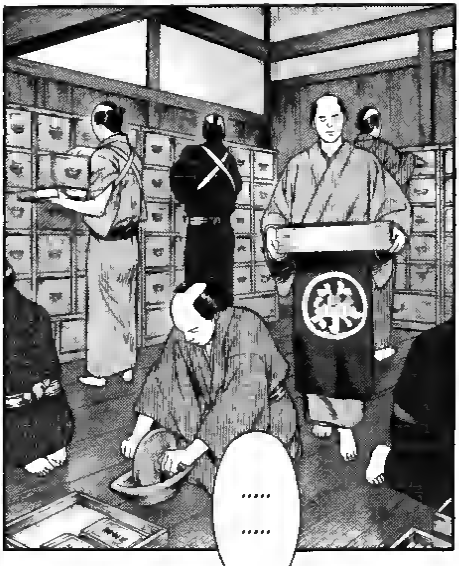
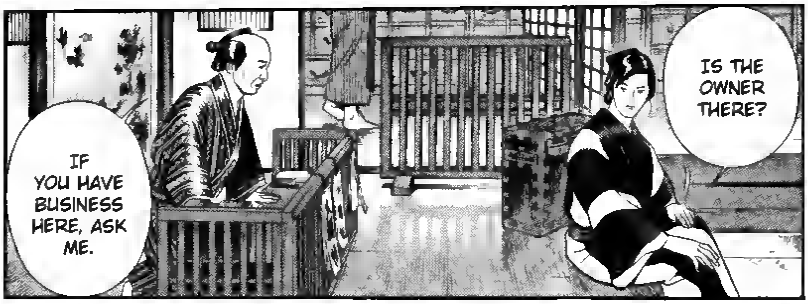
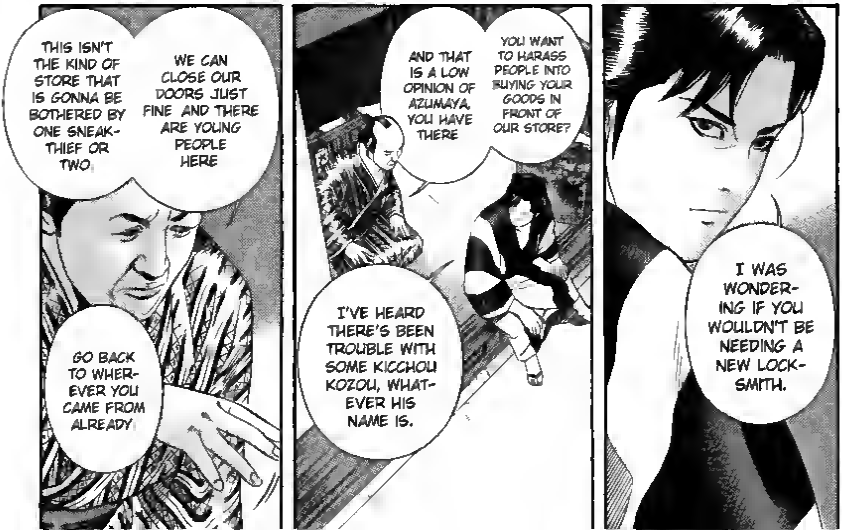
SIGN COLLECTED
WHOLESALE
STORE AZUMAYA
第32話◎吉兆の盗賊 3
HIM!
薬種問屋 東屋

EXCUSE ME.


.....
.....

HEY. WAIT A MINUTE.
YOU LOOK PREOCCUPIED.
IF YOU'RE HERE FOR ORDER-TAKING, GO TO THE BACK OF THE STORE.


IS THE OWNER THERE?
IF YOU HAVE BUSINESS HERE, ASK ME.


I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WOULDN'T BE NEEDING A NEW LOCKSMITH.
YOU WANT TO HARASS PEOPLE INTO BUYING YOUR GOODS IN FRONT OF OUR STORE?
AND THAT IS A LOW OPINION OF AZUMAYA, YOU HAVE THERE
I'VE HEARD THERE'S BEEN TROUBLE WITH SOME KICCHOU KOZOU, WHATEVER HIS NAME IS.
WE CAN CLOSE OUR DOORS JUST FINE AND THERE ARE YOUNG PEOPLE HERE
THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF STORE THAT IS GONNA BE BOTHERED BY ONE SNEAK-THIEF OR TWO.
GO BACK TO WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM ALREADY.

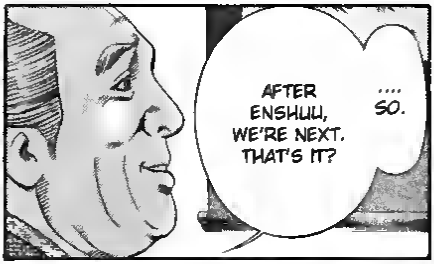
ARE YOU SURE?
HOUSES YAMATO, SAKAI AND ENSHUU HAVE ALREADY BEEN HIT. AZUMA IS LIKELY TO COME NEXT.
ICHIZOU, TAKE HIM INSIDE.
?!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
BUT MASTER.

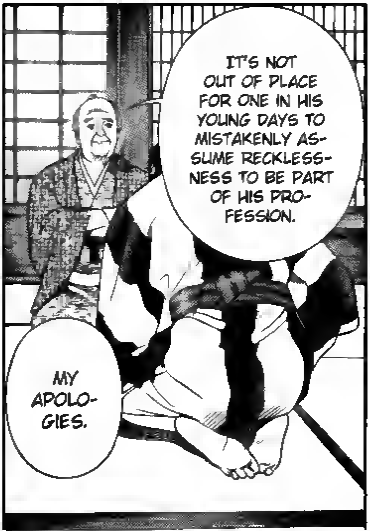
.....
.....

MISTER LOCK-SMITH.
LET'S HEAR IT, SHALL WE?

I HEARD THE RECENT RUMORS ABOUT A SKILLED LOCKSMITH. BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D GO AS FAR AS INVOLVING YOURSELF INTO SUCH SHADY AFFAIRS AS THESE BURGLARIES
.....
JOUNOSUKE-SAN, IS IT?

THAT'S THE KIND OF NOTORIOUS JOBS IT TAKES TO MAKE A NAME FOR ONESELF.
WELL WELL WELL.

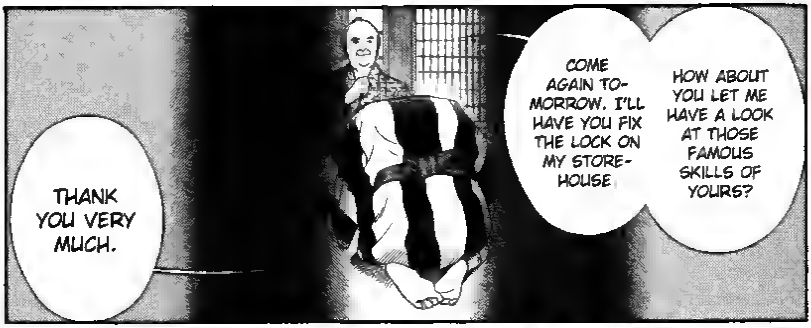

AFTER ENSHUU, WE'RE NEXT. THAT'S IT?
.... SO.


IT'S NOT OUT OF PLACE FOR ONE IN HIS YOUNG DAYS TO MISTAKENLY ASSUME RECKLESSNESS TO BE PART OF HIS PROFESSION.
MY APOLOGIES.

IT'S A LOCKSMITH'S INTUITION.

I WILL THANK YOU TO REFRAIN FROM SUCH NONSENSE.
OH YES? WHO?
ACTUALLY A CERTAIN PERSON TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
TSUKIOKA FUUSAI-SAMA, THE ARTIST.
...WELL, I DO NOT KNOW THAT NAME.

AND IT'S NOT OUT OF PLACE FOR ONE ADVANCED IN AGE TO MISTAKENLY ASSUME THAT SPEAKING IN RIDDLES IS A FORM OF FINESSE.
NEVER MIND.


HOW ABOUT YOU LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT THOSE FAMOUS SKILLS OF YOURS?
COME AGAIN TOMORROW. I'LL HAVE YOU FIX THE LOCK ON MY STOREHOUSE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

.....
.....

CRAP
!

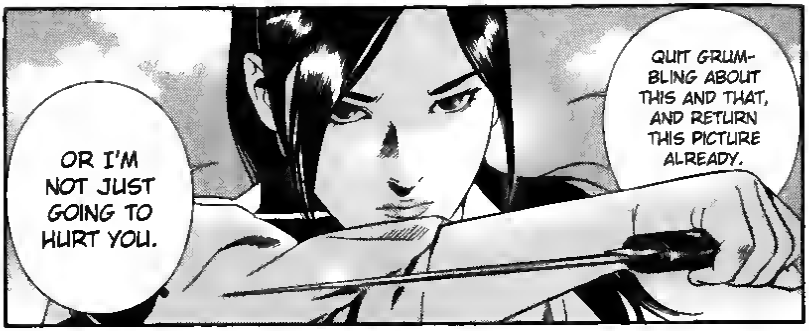
.....
.....
DAMN IT. HE'S BEEN ABLE TO LOSE SOMEONE LIKE ME.
SO IT WAS YOU. HERE'S A SURPRISE.
ARE YOU HERE TO THANK ME FOR LAST NIGHT?

TALKING ABOUT MEMORIES, THERE'S ONE MORE THING.
CAN YOU REMEMBER PICKING UP ANYTHING YESTERDAY?
OH. YOU REMEMBER ME?
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.
YOU MEAN THIS PICTURE?
THAT'S THE ONE.

IT'S MINE!
.....
.....
THIS SHOULD BE MORE THAN E-NOUGH.
FOR THE PICTURE, AND TO THANK YOU FOR LAST NIGHT
NOW GIVE IT BACK.
KICCHOU KOZOU-SAN DOES LIVE UP TO HER NAME.
YOU ARE PROFUSELY GENEROUS TO THE POOR.

YOU'VE FIGURED IT OUT?
THERE'S A QUICK ANSWER TO THAT, THEN.
YOU'RE NO ORDINARY THIEF.
WHAT ARE YOU STEALING FOR?
....
....

WHAT DOES THIS PICTURE HAVE TO DO WITH THE WHOLE THING?
DO YOU HAVE A RELATIVE PORTRAYED ON IT?


QUIT GRUMBLING ABOUT THIS AND THAT, AND RETURN THIS PICTURE ALREADY.
OR I'M NOT JUST GOING TO HURT YOU.

SHUT UP!
WHAT IS SO FUNNY ?
I GUESS YOU'RE TRYING TO LOOM OVER ME, MAKING YOURSELF AS THREATENING AS YOU CAN BUT IT SEEMS SO UNCHARACTERISTIC FROM YOU

SO YOU WERE WAITING FOR YOUR CRONIES? WELL, YOU DID SEEM STRANGELY CONFIDENT.
.....
.....

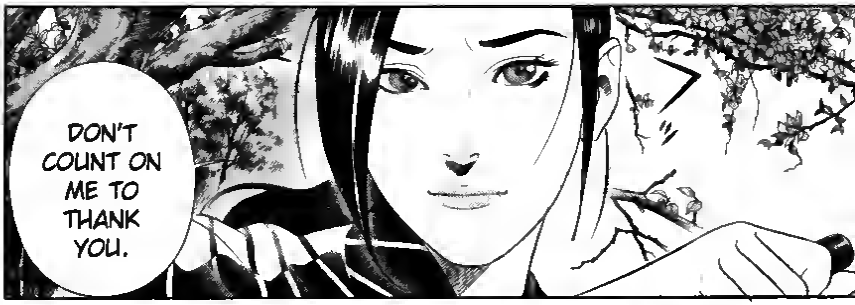
GO!
RAAAH

ホホ
ホホ
.....
.....
DON'T YOU A-GREE?
ICHIZOU-SAN.
THESE ARE NO BACKUP OF MINE.
THEY HAVE COME FROM AZU-MAYA TO MAKE SURE I KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.

ONE THING IS QUITE PLAIN, RIGHT NOW
THE ENEMY IS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU EXPECTED.
WHAT EXACTLY HAVE YOU BEEN DOING AT AZU-MAYA'S?
NOTH-ING
I MERELY WENT THERE TO TALK BUSINESS.
IF YOU ARE ON SOME KIND OF CLUMSY ENDEAVOR TO EXACT REVENGE, I SUGGEST YOU STOP IT.
WHY SHOULD I?!
KILL OFF THOSE TWO AND END THIS ALREADY.
QUIT TWIDDLING YOUR THUMBS.

DESTINY WORKS IN STRANGE WAYS.
DO YOU THINK NOW IS THE TIME? WHAT IS IT?!
I GET TO TELL THE SAME LINE TO THE SAME PERSON TWO DAYS IN A ROW.
?

"GET AWAY!"

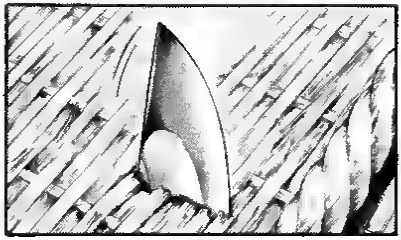

DON'T COUNT ON ME TO THANK YOU.

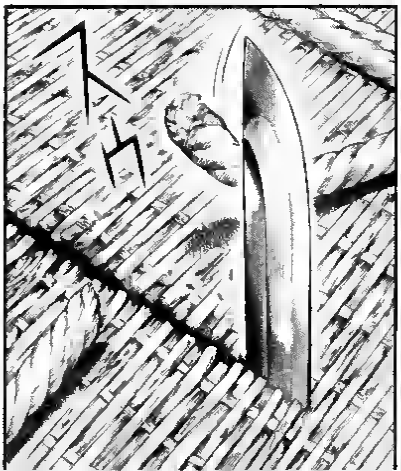
32nd TALE: END

第33話◎吉兆の盗賊 4
THIS IS THE LAST ONE. IT'S ALL THERE.
東屋

CARRY IT INSIDE, AS USUAL.
YES SIR.
ICHI-ZOU.
YES MASTER.
BE SURE TO CLOSE THE DOORS PROPERLY.
I'M CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THE LOCKSMITH SAID.
万金丹

YAMATO, SAKAI, ENSHUU. THE FORTUNE BOY HAS BEEN USING THE SAME METHODS FOR ALL OF THEM.
MAKING HIS WAY IN FROM THE ROOF, BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT TO GUARD SUCH A PLACE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY
WE TOOK MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.
OH YES? LIKE WHAT ?
I'M COUNTING ON YOU ON THIS.
YE
YES MASTER.
WE BUILT A WATCH POST ON THE ROOF. IT'S HASTILY MADE, BUT IT'S THERE.
WE'RE KEEPING A PERFECT WATCH ON THE PREMISES AS WELL.





BWAH
....
....

SERVES YOU RIGHT.
DID YOU EXPECT ME TO KEEP SNEAKING IN FROM THE ROOF EVERY SINGLE TIME?
.....
.....

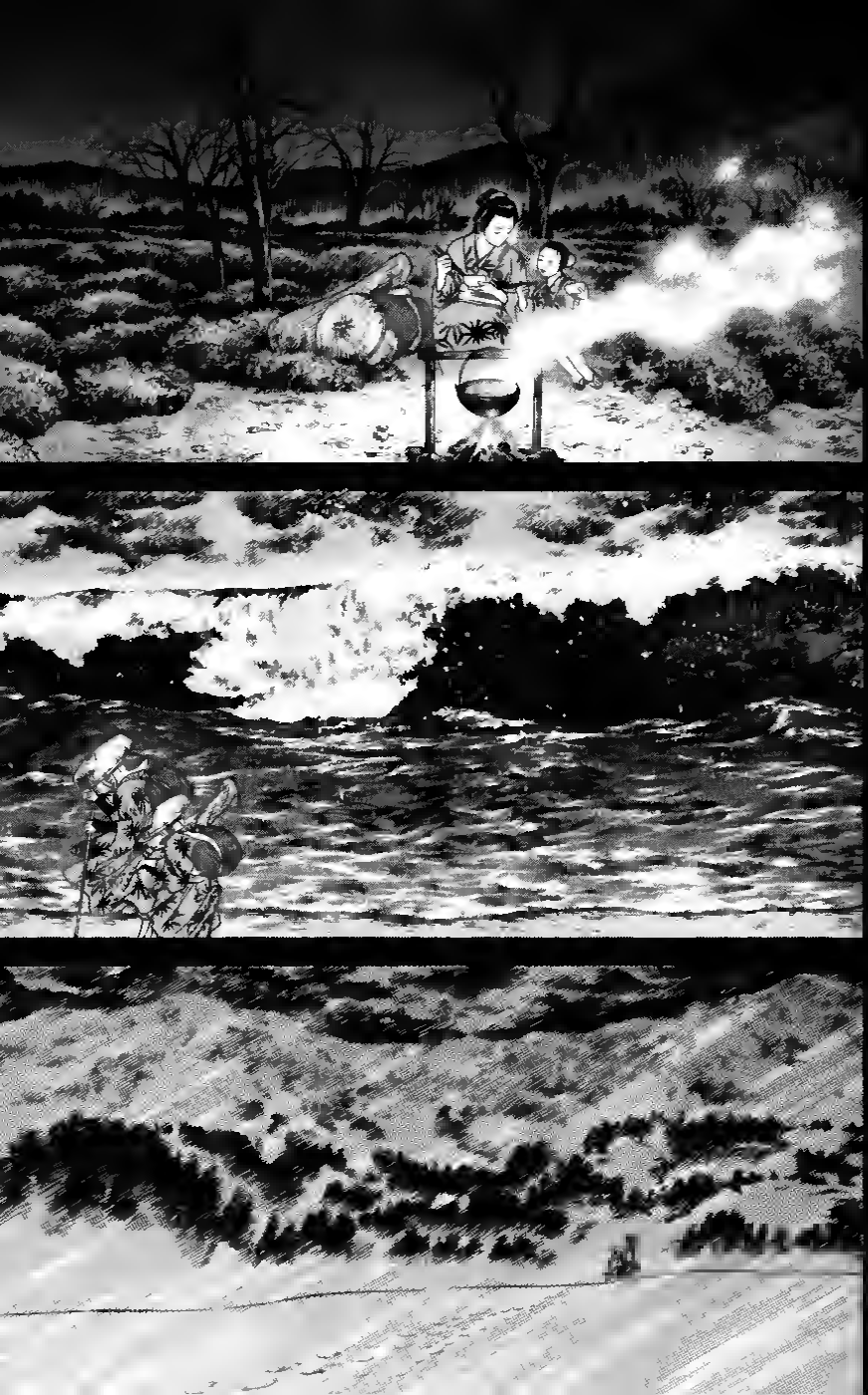
MUST BE HERE.
!
ス"

WHAT IS THIS?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
HE'S COMPLETELY SICK IN THE HEAD.
....
....
WHAT IS THAT DOING HERE ....?
!

COME ON, HAVE A LOOK. YOU'VE LOST SOMETHING? YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING? YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HAS IN STORE?
LET THE CHILD'S LEGS WORK THEIR MAGIC AND FIND OUT FOR YOU.
THIS IS PODOMANCY. SOMETHING YOU WILL NEVER FIND ANYWHERE ELSE.
ANYBODY WANTS TO GIVE IT A TRY?

YEAH.
ALRIGHT, O-KIN. I'M COUNTING ON YOU
YEEE.
HAH.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA EAT TONIGHT?
WHITE RICE SEEMS TO BE OUT OF THE QUESTION
THAT'S IT?



OH, MY, THEY'RE SO COLD.
YOU MUST BE HURTING.

DECREPIT AND WRETCHED.
SIGN: AZUMAYA'S
東屋
IGNORANT OF WHERE I STAND
THE SADNESS OF UNDERSTANDING IS VISITED UPON ME .....
YOU'RE DISTURBING OUR BUSINESS. GO SOMEWHERE ELSE!

MY DAUGHTER CAUGHT A FEVER DURING OUR TRAVELS.
CAN I HAVE SOMETHING FOR FREE?
WHAT IMPUDENCE. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NO NEED TO BE SO COLD ABOUT IT, ICHIZOU.
I'VE HEARD HER STORY. A PITY.
ISN'T IT....?
MASTER.
YES. I HAVE A GOOD IDEA.
I'LL HAVE MY FRIENDS COME OVER, AND ORDER A FEAST.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

ALRIGHT. THIS IS MEDICINE.
TAKE IT, O-KIN. SO YOU CAN HEAL QUICKLY.
THE STORE'S OWNER AND HIS FRIENDS HAVE CALLED FOR ME.
YOU GET AS MUCH REST AS YOU CAN
MUMMY?

PLEASE STAY HERE!
DON'T GO!
YOU NEED TO BECOME STRONGER, O-KIN.
MOTHER WON'T ALWAYS BE THERE WITH YOU.

MUMMY!
IF ONLY I'D DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP YOU FROM GOING BACK THEN!
.....
.....

!
I AM SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT YOU WERE FEMALE.
KICCHOU KOZOU!
FOR WHAT REASON HAVE YOU BEEN HOUSEBREAKING INTO YAMATO'S, SAKAI'S, AND ENSHUU'S?
WHY ARE YOU TARGETING ME?
THAT'S WHY.
DON'T MOVE!
BY ALL MEANS, I HAVE A FEW THINGS I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.

THAT WOULD BE YAMATO.
I FOUND THIS ATROCIOUS PICTURE IN THE FIRST HOUSE I'D ENTERED. THE YAMATO'S.
YOU WERE ALL GATHERED ON IT.
AND SAKAI AND ENSHUU.
AND AZUMAYA.
YOU.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT IS ME, ON THAT PICTURE?
IT DOESN'T EVEN REMOTELY LOOK LIKE ME.
I CAN TELL.
I'M NOT SUPPOSING ANYTHING.
MY GUT TELLS ME IT'S YOU

MUR-
DERER
!!
YOU
KILLED MY
MUM!
YOUR
MOTHER
....
?
DON'T
TELL ME
YOU'VE
FORGOT-
TEN.
THIS
IS MY
MUM!
.....
.....
I CAN'T
REMEM-
BER.
I KILLED SO
MANY PEOPLE,
YOU CAN'T EXPECT
ME TO REMEMBER
EVERY LAST ONE
OF THEM.

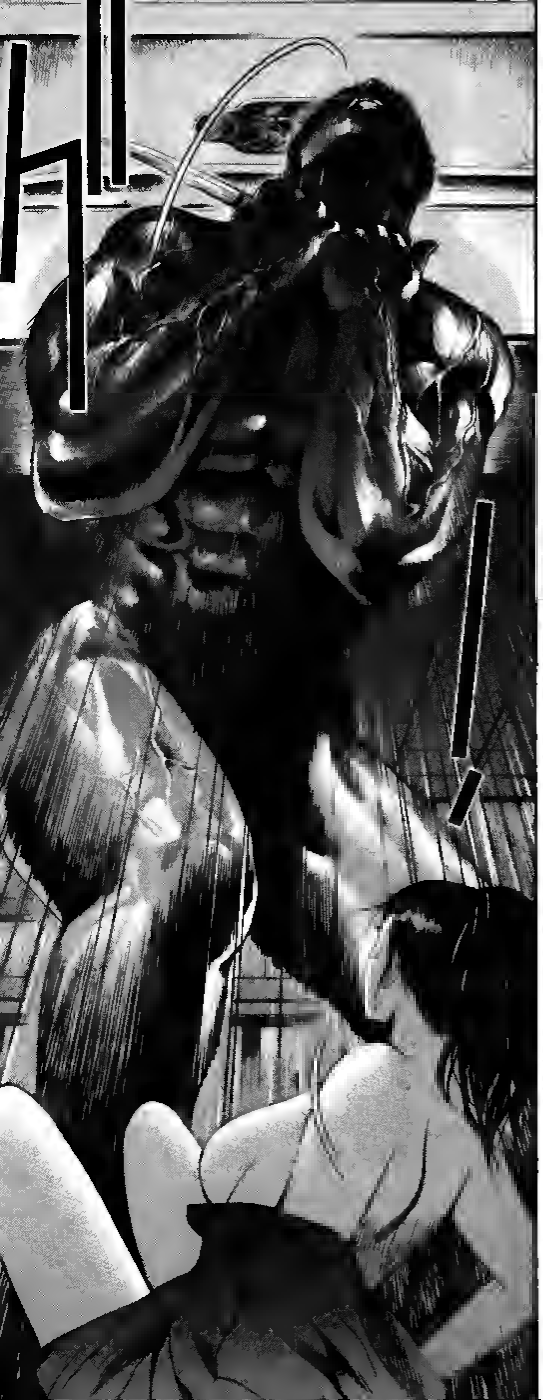
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, LIKE THE WOMEN ON THOSE PICTURES.
?!

TOO BAD THERE ISN'T AN ARTIST AROUND, THOUGH.
ハッ
35rd TALE: END

DAMNA-
TION!
WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING
?!
!
I
TOLD YOU,
DIDN'T
I?
I'M GOING
TO KILL YOU
LIKE I DID
THE OTHER
WOMEN.

第34話◎吉兆の盗賊 5

ハイ
ふぅ



ユー！

ニシュル

YOU !!

I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD HIM MUCH LONGER.
COME OVER HERE. QUICK-LY.
HELL!

MASTER, IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?!
!!
AH.
IT'S YOU, SCUM !!
!!
COUGH COUGH.
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!

ウワアアア

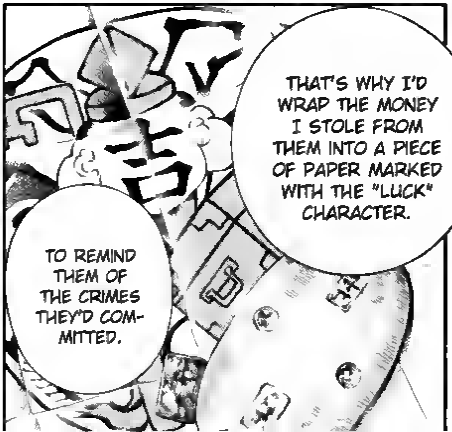
GET AWAY !!
WHAT ARE YOU STANDING THERE FOR?
H——————C

!!
GET GOING IMMEDI-ATELY !!
FIRE!
THE FLAMES ARE EVERY-WHERE.

ガブッ

!
MUMMY!

TN: KICHI = FORTUNE/LUCK


THAT'S WHY I'D WRAP THE MONEY I STOLE FROM THEM INTO A PIECE OF PAPER MARKED WITH THE "LUCK" CHARACTER.
TO REMIND THEM OF THE CRIMES THEY'D COMMITTED.

A DOOR-ING.
WHAT DID YOU DO?
NEVERMIND THAT. THAT'S SOME PRETTY NEAT TRICKS YOU GOT THERE
MY JOB IS TO SEAL THOSE WHO TURN MONSTROUS LIKE AZUMAYA INTO A LOCK.
DEMONS DEVOUR THE DARKNESS WITHIN PEOPLE'S HEARTS TO COME FORTH INTO OUR WORLD.
FOR LETTING ME SEE MY MOTHER ONE LAST TIME.
THANK YOU.
WHY?
ANYWAY, I'M GRATEFUL.

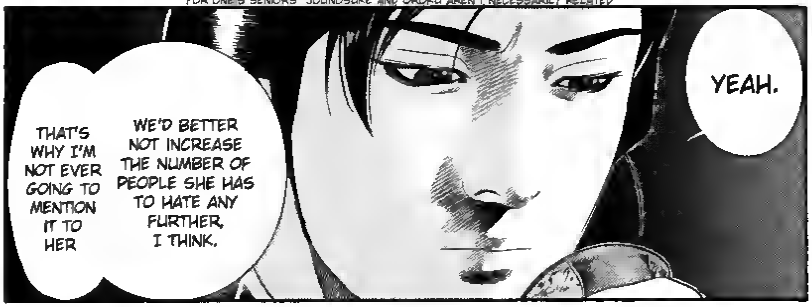
.....
.....
NOW IT'S OVER, MUM

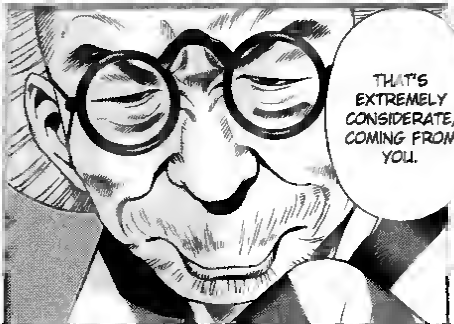
WHAT'S WRONG, JOUNO-SUKE?
I WAS JUST REMEMBERING HOW I MET UP WITH O-KIN...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ARTIST WHO SKETCHED THIS, BY THE WAY?
BUT TO THINK THAT BURGLAR GIRL WOULD END UP WORKING AS YOUR PARTNER. FATE WORKS IN ENTERTAINING WAYS.
GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

OR PERHAPS THE DARKNESS ENGULFED HIM.
I WENT TO HAVE A LOOK IN HIS ROOM AFTER THE DOORING, BUT HE WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.
MAYBE HE'D BEEN DISPATCHED BY AZUMAYA.

.....
.....

TN: BAA-SAN MEANS GRANDMOTHER BUT "UNCLE" "BIG BROTHER" "GRANDMOTHER" ETC. ARE COMMON FORMS OF RESPECTFUL ADDRESS FOR ONE'S SENIORS. JOUNOSUKE AND OROKU AREN'T NECESSARILY RELATED.


YEAH.
WE'D BETTER NOT INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHE HAS TO HATE ANY FURTHER, I THINK.
THAT'S WHY I'M NOT EVER GOING TO MENTION IT TO HER



QUIT SAYING WHAT-EVER .....

NEVER SET FOOT IN HERE AGAIN!
THAT'S GONNA BE A PROB-LEM. YOU'RE OUR WELL OF WISDOM WHEN IT COMES TO EXORCISING DEMONS.

I KNEW YOU'D BE THERE.

LET'S GO EAT SOME EELS, OR SOME-THING.
EH?

SOME-THING WRONG, O-KIN?

YAMIKAGISHI PART ONE: END

あとがき

読者の皆さまの様々な応援メッセージを力に
がんばってきた『闇鍵師』ではありますが
とりあえず一旦、幕を引かしていただく事になりました。
私からのラブコールに忙しいなか、
原作を引き受けて下さった中島さん、
それに関係各位、ご愛読いただいた読者のみなさんに
ご迷惑をおかけして、大変申し訳なく思っております。
私自身の作画キャパに限界があり、
スケジュール等も含め、なかなか自分自身納得のいく
クォリティーを保てなくなってきているというのが正直な理由です。
『闇鍵師』は、私自身、たいへん愛している作品ですので、
いつか再会のチャンスがあればと考えております。

赤名修

さて、今巻で江戸の魔封じの錠前屋の物語は、とりあえずの閉幕である。
残念ではあるが仕方がない。
でもまあ、魔物をいくら封印しようとも、あちらからこの世に染みだしてくる限り、
『閘鍵師』という物語も、また何らかの形で蘇ることもあるかもしれない。
あって欲しいものだなとは思うが、それも浮き世の流れ次第でしょう。
しかし、漫画原作では日の浅い僕が、赤名 修さんという
素晴らしい描き手に出会えたのは何よりも幸福でした。
この作品に関わったすべてのスタッフと、
何よりもここまでおつきあいいただいた読者の方々には多大なる感謝を。
どうもありがとうございました。

中島かずき

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